

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended)**      A recording/reproduction terminal to which an encoding or decoding device is detachably connected and which records or reproduces a signal representing audio or video, said recording/reproduction terminal comprising:

        a terminal information storage unit operable to store terminal information, which is information regarding a recording/reproduction ability of said~~the~~ recording/reproduction terminal, and operable to output the terminal information to the encoding or decoding device when the encoding or decoding device is connected to said recording/reproduction terminal; and

        a signal transmission unit operable to transmit, to the encoding or decoding device, the signal representing audio or video to be encoded, when the signal representing audio or video is recorded,

wherein the terminal information indicates whether or not a built-in encoding or decoding device is built in said recording/reproduction terminal, and

wherein said recording/reproduction terminal makes the encoding or decoding device encode the signal representing audio or video, when said built-in encoding or decoding device does not exist.

**Claim 2 (Currently Amended)**      The recording/reproduction terminal according to Claim 1, wherein said recording/reproduction terminal stores~~further comprising storing~~ encoded data obtained by encoding the signal representing audio or video into the encoding or decoding device.

**Claim 3 (Cancelled)**

**Claim 4 (Currently Amended)** The recording/reproduction terminal according to Claim 2 ~~Claim 3~~, further comprising a reproduction unit operable to receive, from the encoding or decoding device, the signal representing audio or video, which is obtained by decoding the encoded data stored in the encoding or decoding device by the encoding or decoding device, and operable to reproduce the signal representing audio or video, when the built-in encoding or decoding device does not exist.

**Claim 5 (Currently Amended)** The recording/reproduction terminal according to Claim 4, wherein the terminal information includes coding format information which indicates a coding format used by the built-in encoding or decoding device,

wherein said recording/reproduction terminal further ~~comprises~~ comprising a built-in encoding or decoding device which encodes or decodes the signal representing audio or video using a predetermined coding format,

wherein said reproduction unit is operable to receive the signal including audio or video which is decoded by the encoding or decoding device, and operable to reproduce the signal representing audio or video when a coding format of the encoded data stored in the encoding or decoding device is different from the coding format indicated in the coding format information, and

wherein said built-in encoding or decoding device, which encodes or decodes the signal representing the audio or video using the predetermined coding format, is operable to receive the encoded data without decoding the encoded data, and operable to decode the encoded data when the coding format of the encoded data stored in the encoding or decoding device is the same as the coding format indicated in the coding format information.

**Claim 6 (Cancelled)**

**Claim 7 (Cancelled)**

**Claim 8 (Currently Amended)**      The recording/reproduction terminal according to Claim 1,  
further comprising:

        a memory operable to provide a working area for encoding or decoding processing  
performed by the encoding or decoding device;

        a memory use request receiving unit operable to receive a use request for said memory  
from the encoding or decoding device; and

        a memory control unit operable to make the encoding or decoding device use a part or  
all of the working area in said memory when the use request is received.

**Claim 9 (Currently Amended)**      The recording/reproduction terminal according to Claim 8,

        wherein the terminal information includes memory information which indicates an  
available capacity of said memory in said recording/reproduction terminal,

wherein said recording/reproduction terminal further comprises an available capacity  
detection unit operable to regularly detect an ~~the~~ available capacity of said memory, and

wherein said memory control unit is operable to update the memory information in the  
terminal information with a value of a ~~the~~ newly detected available capacity of said memory.

**Claim 10 (Currently Amended)**      An encoding or decoding device ~~which is~~ detachably  
connected to a recording/reproduction terminal which records or reproduces a signal representing  
audio or video, said encoding or decoding device comprising:

a terminal information obtainment unit operable to obtain, from the recording/reproduction terminal, terminal information indicating whether or not a built-in encoding or decoding device is built in the recording/reproduction terminal, ~~which is information regarding a recording/reproduction ability of the recording/reproduction terminal~~ when said encoding or decoding device is connected to the recording/reproduction terminal; and

an encoding or decoding unit operable to encode or decode the signal representing audio or video, when the built-in encoding or decoding device does not exist ~~based on the obtained terminal information~~.

**Claim 11 (Currently Amended)** The encoding or decoding device according to Claim 10, further comprising an encoded data storage unit operable to store encoded data obtained by encoding the signal representing audio or video,

wherein said encoding or decoding unit is operable to encode the signal representing audio or video and store ~~stores~~ the encoded data into said encoded data storage unit.

**Claim 12 (Cancelled)**

**Claim 13 (Cancelled)**

**Claim 14 (Currently Amended)** The encoding or decoding device according to Claim 11,

wherein the terminal information ~~includes information which~~ indicates a maximum data transfer amount per unit time between the recording/reproduction terminal and said encoding or decoding device, and

wherein said encoding or decoding unit is operable to convert, depending on the

~~information indicating the~~ maximum data transfer amount indicated by the terminal information, at least one of a frame rate and a resolution of a decoded moving picture signal, so that a data amount per unit time of the decoded moving picture signal does not exceed the maximum data transfer amount, when the decoded moving picture signal is decoded from the encoded data in said encoded data storage unit.

**Claim 15 (Currently Amended)** The encoding or decoding device according to Claim 11, wherein the terminal information includes resolution information indicating which ~~indicates an~~ appropriate resolution used in ~~said~~ a reproduction unit, and wherein said encoding or decoding unit is operable to convert a resolution of ~~the~~ a moving picture signal decoded depending on the resolution information into the appropriate resolution, when the moving picture signal is decoded from the encoded data in said encoded data storage unit.

**Claim 16 (Currently Amended)** The encoding or decoding device according to Claim 11, further comprising a signal receiving unit operable to receive, from the recording/reproduction terminal, a signal to be stored into said encoded data storage unit, wherein said encoding or decoding unit is operable to store the received signal without coding the received signal, when the received signal is encoded data.

**Claim 17 (Currently Amended)** The encoding or decoding device according to Claim 11, wherein said encoding or decoding unit is operable to convert at least one of a frame rate and a resolution of ~~the~~ a moving picture signal depending on an available capacity of said encoded data storage unit, when the signal including audio or video is the moving picture signal, and operable

to encode the converted motion picture signal.

**Claim 18 (Cancelled)**

**Claim 19 (Previously Presented)** The encoding or decoding device according to Claim 10, wherein said encoding or decoding unit is operable to perform at least one of video encoding, video decoding, audio encoding, audio decoding, video trans-coding, and audio trans-coding.

**Claim 20 (Currently Amended)** The encoding or decoding device according to Claim 10,

wherein the terminal information includes memory information indicating an~~which~~  
~~indicates~~ existence of a memory which is able to be used by said encoding or decoding device  
and which is built~~built~~ in the recording/reproduction terminal, and

wherein said encoding or decoding unit is operable to request the  
recording/reproduction terminal for use of ~~said~~ the memory, when the signal including audio or  
video is a moving picture signal and the memory built in the recording/reproduction terminal  
exists.

**Claim 21 (Currently Amended)** The encoding or decoding device according to Claim 10,

wherein the terminal information includes memory information indicating~~which~~  
~~indicates~~ a capacity of ~~said~~ a memory which is able to be used by said encoding or decoding  
device and which is built in the recording/reproduction terminal, and

wherein said encoding or decoding unit is operable to request the  
recording/reproduction terminal for use of the~~said~~ memory depending on a size of a picture to be  
encoded or decoded and the capacity of the~~said~~ memory indicated in the terminal information,

when the signal including audio or video is a moving picture signal.

**Claim 22 (Currently Amended)** An integrated circuit ~~which is~~ embedded with an encoding or decoding device ~~which is~~ detachably connected to a recording/reproduction terminal, which records or reproduces a signal representing audio or video, said integrated circuit comprising:

a terminal information obtainment unit operable to obtain, from the recording/reproduction terminal, terminal information indicating whether or not a built-in encoding or decoding device is built in the recording/reproduction terminal, which is information regarding a recording/reproduction ability of the recording/reproduction terminal when the encoding or decoding device is connected to the recording/reproduction terminal; and

an encoding or decoding unit operable to encode or decode the signal representing audio or video, when the built-in encoding or decoding device does not exist based on the obtained terminal information.

**Claim 23 (Currently Amended)** A recording/reproduction method performed by a recording/reproduction terminal to which an encoding or decoding device is detachably connected and which records or reproduces a signal representing audio or video, said method comprising:

storing previously, into a storage unit, terminal information, which is information regarding a recording/reproduction ability of the recording/reproduction terminal, and outputting the terminal information to the encoding or decoding device when the encoding or decoding device is connected to the recording/reproduction terminal; and

encoding the signal representing audio or video to be encoded by transmitting the signal representing audio or video to be encoded to the encoding or decoding device, when the signal

representing audio or video is recorded onto the recording/reproduction terminal,

wherein the terminal information indicates whether or not a built-in encoding or decoding device is built in the recording/reproduction terminal, and

wherein said method includes making, via the recording/reproduction terminal, the encoding or decoding device encode the signal representing audio or video, when the built-in encoding or decoding device does not exist.